

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 12-24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 13, 18 and 23 are currently amended. Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11 and specific polar groups from the specification: pg 15, lines 34-36. Amended claims 2 and 3 find support in the specification: pg 13, lines 9-16. Claim 13 find support in the specification: pg 8, line 10, to pg 10, line 21. Claim 18 has been amended to clarify that the thickness refers to the sum of (a) and (b); accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the §112 rejection with respect to claim 18. Claim 24 is added and finds support in original claim 11 and the specification: pg 15, lines 34-36. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22 and 23 have been rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by *Faverolle*. This rejection does not include claim 11, the subject matter of which has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22 and 23 directly or indirectly depend from claim 1 (now including claim 11). Accordingly, the §102(e) rejection in view of *Faverolle* has been obviated and Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-23 have been rejected under §103(a) as being obvious in view of *Faverolle*; however Applicants traverse this rejection. *Faverolle* teaches a lens comprising an organic glass substrate, a primer layer comprising polymers P1 and P2, and an abrasion-resistant coating (Abstract). More specifically, *Faverolle* discloses that monomers of polymers P1 and P2 can be vinyl esters of linear or branched carboxylic acids, such as vinyl acetate and vinyl stearate (col. 2, lines 35-60). These vinylic polymers of *Faverolle* are the “closest” in relation to Applicants’ polymer (A); however, Applicants’ polymer (A) is clearly different and distinct. Applicants’ polymer (A) comprises a vinyl polymer modified by one or more polar groups from among hydroxyl, sulphonyl, carboxamide, nitrile and silanol (see claim 1).

Faverolle does not teach or disclose such modified vinyl polymers, in fact, *Faverolle* is silent with respect to modification of a vinyl polymer with Applicants' named polar groups.

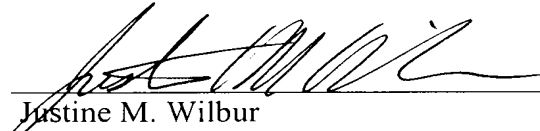
Moreover, Applicants point out that the Office has failed to discuss the obviousness of the subject matter of original claim 11. The Office merely asserts generally that a "person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to vary the composition and proportion of polymer P1 and P2 based on desired flexibility and adhesion" (Office Action, pg 4, section 7). Applicants submit that the Office has not provided any indication of motivation to "vary the composition" of *Faverolle*'s polymers P1 and P2 (vinyl esters of linear or branched carboxylic acids) to Applicants' polymer (A) (comprising a vinyl polymer modified by one or more polar groups from among hydroxyl, sulphonyl, carboxamide, nitrile and silanol). Without a showing of reasoning or another prior art reference teaching such a modification, the current §103(a) rejection of original claim 11 (now claim 1) is without merit.

Additionally, the Office states that "polymer P2 [of *Faverolle*] comprises a small amount of methacrylic acid ... [t]herefore the polymer P2 [is] deemed to have water contact angle which falls within the claimed range..." (Office Action, pg 3, section 6). However, as can be seen by Applicants' Comparative Example 2, even the addition of only 1% of methacrylic acid results in severe clouding and poor inhibition of water droplet formation (pg 31, line 37, to pg 32, line 11). Furthermore, the layer comprising the 1% of methacrylic acid (Comparative Example 2) gave a contact angle of "about 55°", which is 20° below the minimum threshold of "greater than or equal to 75°" as required by Applicants' claim 1. Therefore, the Office's sweeping conclusion that *Faverolle*'s polymers P1 and P2 are deemed to have contact angles within Applicants' claimed range is unreasonable.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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